

DOCKET SECTION
BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Docket No. R97-1

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 1997

**SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO DOUGLAS CARLSON INTERROGATORY DFC/USPS-11
(December 12, 1997)**

The United States Postal Service hereby files this supplemental response to the following interrogatory of Douglas Carlson: DFC/USPS-11. The original response was filed on November 20, 1997.

The interrogatory is stated verbatim and followed by the supplemental response, which incorporates the original response verbatim and expands on that response in an effort to further clarify the issues raised by the interrogatory.

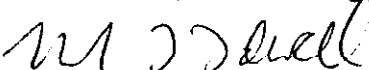
The supplemental response supersedes the original response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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**SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORY OF DOUGLAS CARLSON**

DFC/USPS-11

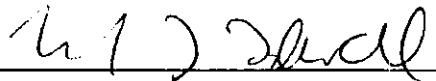
Is the aspect ratio of a rectangular post card relevant to determining whether the card can be processed by automated equipment. If so, why does the nonstandard surcharge that applies to one-ounce nonstandard letters not apply to cards whose aspect ratio is not conducive to automated processing?

RESPONSE:

The nonstandard surcharge does not apply to cards claimed at the card rate. To qualify for the card rate, a card must meet the dimensional requirements in Domestic Mail Manual section 100.2.1 which, generally, are consistent with those of a standard letter. A card which violates those postcard dimensions does not qualify for the card rate and would have to pay the higher rate for letters. If the card then violated the requirements for a standard letter, it would be subject to the nonstandard surcharge. Because dimensional requirements needed to qualify for the card rate are generally consistent with those of a standard letter, the only cards that would be subject to a hypothetical nonstandard card surcharge would be those with an aspect ratio between 1.18 and 1.3, which is presumably a relatively small portion of pieces claiming the card rate. The aspect ratio for cards is relevant to whether cards can be processed on automation. Considerations of administrative simplicity (for mailers and the Postal Service) work to limit the number of classifications, rate categories, fees, and surcharges the Postal Service proposes to assess the various components and subcomponents of the mail stream.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice.



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